

Security Message Information for Travelers and Residents U.S. Embassy Belmopan, Belize August 3, 2016 Hurricane Earl

Tropical Storm Earl has been upgraded to a hurricane and is expected to make landfall in the early morning hours of August 4. Hurricane conditions are expected within the next 24 hours, meaning winds in excess of 70 mph will affect the country of Belize. Rainfall is estimated to be as high as 12 inches. Storm surge is likely to be 3-5ft. Routine consular services have been cancelled for August 4. Consular activity is focused on providing emergency services to U.S. citizens.

Locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. Shelters are open to receive people who need them on the Cayes, Belize City, Belize District, Dangriga and Punta Gorda. Belize international airport will closed at Noon today, and will remain closed until after the storm.

Carry your travel documents at all times (e.g., U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in a safe, waterproof location. Make sure you have adequate supplies (at least 72 hours' worth) of any prescription medications and keep them in a safe, waterproof location. You should also contact friends and family in the United States with updates on your whereabouts.

- For local updates, please visit http://site.nemo.org.bz/ or call the National Emergency Management Organization at 501-822-2054/hotline 936.
- For continued updates on this tropical storm, residents and travelers are advised to monitor the storm at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit in the U.S. Embassy at <u>ACSBelize@state.gov</u> or by calling 501-822-4011.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Belize Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Belize, located at 4 Flora Park Road, Belmopan at +501-822-4011, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +501-610-5030.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).



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